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## Editor's Notes

In the charter of the Georgia Historical Society, assented to as an act of the Legislature, December 19, 1839, the preamble declares that the corporation was instituted "for the purpose of collecting, preserving and diffusing information relating to the history of the State of Georgia in particular, and of American history generally." While much has been done in the way of collecting matter relating to the history of the State, and nine volumes of collections and many pamphlets have been published, the Society still has material for additional volumes; but an appeal is now made to our members for additions to our store of documents and other original matter useful in preserving and diffusing knowledge relating to all periods of the State's history. Such appeals are always in order, and have been made from time to time, and we take this occasion to add another to the number, hoping that it will meet with abundant success.

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At the time this number of our periodical is ready for distribution it is probable that the proposed union of the Georgia Historical Society and the Georgia Historical Association will have been perfected. These two organizations have the same purpose in view as mentioned in the quotation from the charter of the former, given in the foregoing paragraph. It is eminently proper that the two societies be made one body, and that its efforts to accomplish the objects aimed at be made statewide. The appeal made, therefore, for additions to the material for writing our history includes the members of the united bodies, wherever they may live.

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The June number of this periodical will be a special one, containing matter relating to the work done by the two organizations and other things of interest to all members and others. It will necessarily be larger than usual and, for that reason, this number is reduced in size and the printing of the remainder of the N. W. Jones eulogy must be delayed until September.

Among the honorary members elected by the Society, immediately following the founding of the institution, was the great statesman, Daniel Webster. In accepting membership Mr. Webster expressed his opinion as to the need for such organizations in the letter herewith presented:

"Boston, Nov. 25, 1840.

"Dear Sir:

"Your letter of the 13th inst., informing me of my election as Honorary Member of the Georgia Historical Society, is received.

"I pray you to accept for yourself, and to present to the Society, my cordial thanks for the honor thus conferred on me, & to assure them of my hearty sympathy with the objects they have in view.

"It is earnestly to be hoped that similar societies will be formed in all of the States where they do not already exist, that the almost infinite variety of interesting events connected with the early history of our Country may be rescued from that oblivion which is rapidly closing over them, & that they may be collected in a form convenient for the preservation and transmission to future generations. Nowhere in the annals of our race is there to be found more brilliant examples of all those qualities which dignify & adorn human nature than those which distinguished the American Colonies, & it is among our high & imperative duties to take good care that their influence shall not be lost.

"I am, dear sir, your obliged friend

"& fellow citizen,

"DANIEL WEBSTER.

"I K. Tefft, Esq.,

"Cor. Sec'y, &c."

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One year before the election of Mr. Webster the venerable John Quincy Adams was enrolled as an honorary member. He was elected during the latter part of the year 1839, when he was in the 73rd year of his age, and he acknowledged the compliment in these words:

"I K. Tefft, Esq., Corresponding Secretary of the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.

"Quincy, 26 Nov'br, 1839.

"Sir:

"I received some time since your favour of the 13th of August last, informing me of the honour conferred upon me by the Georgia Historical Society, in electing me one of their honorary members. Your letter was accompanied by a copy of the Constitution and By Laws of the Society.

"I pray you, sir, and the members of the Society to be assured of the high sense which I entertain of the mark of distinction which they have bestowed upon me; and of the respect with which I am your and their obed't Serv't.

"JOHN QUINCY ADAMS."